AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A substrate for receiving and cryopreserving a plurality of samples, said substrate comprising:

a plurality of substrate plates arranged on top of one another as a stack , and

an anchoring axis, to which the substrate plates are connected,

wherein: (a) each substrate plate has a compartmental arrangement with a plurality of sample reservoirs and a bearing bore through which the anchoring axis passes, (b) in an assembled state of the substrate theand at least one substrate plates can pivot out of the stack about the anchoring axis, and (c) at least one of the substrate plates can be laterally removed from the anchoring axis without removing all of the remaining substrate plates connected to the anchoring axis.

2.   (Canceled).

3.   (Previously Presented) The substrate according to Claim 1, wherein the substrate plates have a rectangular shape and the bearing bore is in each case provided in a corner of the substrate plates.

4.   (Previously Presented) The substrate according to Claim 1, wherein the bearing bore of at least one of the substrate plates has an insertion opening on an edge for the lateral insertion of the anchoring axis into the bearing bore.

5.   (Previously Presented) The substrate according to Claim 4, wherein the insertion opening forms a collar opening with a lesser width, relative to a diameter of the bearing bore, and the anchoring axis has a thickness at least in partial sections of its length that is smaller than or equal to the width of the collar opening.

6.   (Previously Presented)   The substrate according to Claim 1, wherein the anchoring axis has a projection on its upper end.

7.   (Previously Presented)   The substrate according to Claim 1, wherein the anchoring axis is rotatably arranged.

8.   (Previously Presented) The substrate according to Claim 1, wherein the stack contains at least one of a data storage device, a base plate and a cover plate.

9.   (Previously Presented) The substrate according to Claim 8, wherein the base plate contains a data memory.

10.   (Previously Presented)   The substrate according to Claim 8, wherein the anchoring axis is detachably connected to a lowest substrate plate or to the base plate.

11.   (Previously Presented) The substrate according to Claim 1, wherein at least one substrate plate in the stack can be shifted vertically to the anchoring axis.

12.   (Canceled).

13.   (Previously Presented) The substrate according to Claim 1, wherein the substrate plates comprise engagement means that block a lateral shifting of the substrate plates at least in a direction vertically to a stack direction.

14.   (Previously Presented)   The substrate according to Claim 13, wherein the engagement means comprise at least one profile on a lateral surface of a substrate plate that cooperates with a complementary profile on a lateral surface of an adjacent substrate plate.

15.   (Previously Presented)   The substrate according to Claim 13, wherein the anchoring axis can be transferred by a rotation from a lowered fix position, in which all substrate plates in the stack are mutually fixed, into a rotary position, in which the substrate plates can be moved in accordance with a play in a direction of the stack and pivot about the anchoring axis, and/or be transferred into a release position in which at least one substrate plate can be separated from the stack.

16.   (Previously Presented)   The substrate according to Claim 13, wherein the engagement means are formed by a positive-fit slide guide.

17.   (Previously Presented)   The substrate according to Claim 1, wherein the anchoring axis comprises a one-piece rod extending over a height of the stack.

18.   (Previously Presented)   The substrate according to Claim 5, wherein the anchoring axis comprises a one-piece rod extending over a height of the stack, and the rod has key surfaces that form the partial sections with the thickness that is smaller than or equal to the width of the collar opening.

19.   (Previously Presented)   The substrate according to Claim 1, wherein the anchoring axis comprises a plurality of axis segments.

20.   (Previously Presented)   The substrate according to Claim 19, wherein the axis segments each comprise a cylindrical body with a height corresponding substantially to a thickness of the substrate plates and with a diameter corresponding to a diameter of the bearing bores, complementary recesses and protrusions being provided on the top and bottom sides of the axis segments that engage into each other in the assembled stack of substrate plates.

21.   (Canceled).

22.   (Previously Presented)   The substrate according to Claim 1, wherein at least one substrate plate contains a data memory.

23.   (Previously Presented)   The substrate according to Claim 1, wherein the substrate plates comprise plastic.

24.   (Previously Presented)   The substrate according to Claim 1, wherein the substrate plates have side lengths less than 10 cm.

25.   (Previously Presented)   A process for the cryopreservation of samples with a substrate according to Claim 1, with the steps:

storage of the samples on the substrate plates , and

freezing of the substrate plates in the stack.

26.   (Previously Presented)   The process according to Claim 25, wherein the stack of substrate plates is formed before the storage of the samples.

27.   (Previously Presented)   The process according to Claim 25, wherein the stack of substrate plates is formed after the storage of the samples.

28.   (Previously Presented)   The process according to Claim 25, wherein individual substrate plates are pivoted or pushed out of the stack in a frozen or thawed state.

29.   (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 25, wherein the samples are liquids or particulates.

30.   (Previously Presented)   The process of Claim 25, wherein the samples are biological samples.